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Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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Annual Meeting of ECOWAS Held in Accra

'Only' Six Leaders Attend

AB2807202995 London BBC World Service
in English 1705 GMT 28 Jul 95

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The annual meeting of the Economic Community of West African States, ECOWAS, got under way in Accra, Ghana, today. Chairman President Rawlings might have been disappointed that only six heads of state turned up — all other member states sent representatives. The Nigerian head of state, General Abacha, also sent a speech. Perhaps inevitably, the meeting is being overshadowed by the Liberian civil war. From Accra, Kwaku Sakyi-Addo reports:

[Begin Sakyi-Addo recording] A meeting of the ECOWAS Committee of Nine on Liberia preceded the colorful opening ceremony. The Liberian civil war is at the top of the summit agenda, and that was reflected in the opening speeches. President Conte, for example, is proposing a return to the Cotonou Accord, saying that the Akosombo Accord signed in Ghana last September had put the cart before the horse, by overemphasizing the political component over the military. President Conte also criticized some countries for standing on the needle while others were looking for it, quote, unquote. [sentence as heard]

President Rawlings blasted the ECOWAS Secretariat for its inefficiency, and member countries for their \$140-million indebtedness to the organization. He also dwelled on the perennial monetary, trade, and immigration issues, indulging in mutual self-congratulations and back-patting over how far the 25-year old organization has traveled, but also acknowledging that there was a great deal more to be done. Each speech was concluded with singing and chanting by praise singers from Ghana's ruling NDC [National Democratic Congress].

Curiously, no one mentioned the political crisis in Nigeria, except, ironically, the Nigerian head of state's speech, which made vague references to the need to resolve civil strife within member countries peacefully. Ostensibly, his attention too seemed more on Liberia than the political powderkeg brewing in his own national compound, but that too was concluded with the obligatory singing and chanting by the praise singers. [end recording]

Ghana's Rawlings Re-Elected Chairman

AB2907142095 Accra Ghana Broadcasting
Corporation Radio Network in English
1300 GMT 29 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The president, Flight Lieutenant Rawlings, has been reelected chairman of ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] for a second term of office. A source close to the 18th ECOWAS summit in Accra said President Rawlings was nominated by President Nicéphore Soglo of Benin whom he succeeded as ECOWAS chairman last year. President Soglo also served two consecutive terms during his tenure of office.

According to the source, the meeting asked the United Nations not to pull out of Liberia, but to stay and help find a solution to the fratricidal conflict in that country. The Liberian issue has occupied the attention of ECOWAS for the past five years. The source said the meeting also made reference to the UN's engagement in the conflict in the former Yugoslavia to which the UN continues to commit huge resources, and urged the world body to do the same for Liberia.

Rawlings Presents 'Negative' Report

AB2907171395 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French
1215 GMT 29 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The 18th summit of the Economic Community of West African States [ECOWAS], which comprises 16 countries from the subregion, began in Accra, the Ghanaian capital, late yesterday morning. Six of the organization's 16 heads of state were present at the opening ceremony for this two-day session. The deliberations are expected to center on security problems, mainly the civil wars prevailing in Liberia for about six years, and in Sierra Leone for more than four years now.

Yesterday, Ghanaian President Jerry John Rawlings, whose country chairs the organization, presented a negative report on the activities carried out by the West African organization. He then regretted that the Liberian crisis forced the organization to pay less attention to the other problems the subregion should normally tackle. Tunde Fatunde, our special correspondent covering the summit, has the details from Accra:

[Begin Fatunde recording] To the surprise of some, and to the satisfaction of others, Ghanaian President Rawlings, the current ECOWAS chairman, presented a critical report in his opening address on the 20 years' existence of the organization. Among the shortcomings of the ECOWAS, he stressed, is its inability to implement a number of projects, mainly the harmonization of trade

and currency. Furthermore, he reported that some member countries have not been able to pay up their contribution arrears to the organization. The nonpayment of these contribution arrears — estimated, according to him, at more than \$100 million — he added, hinder the concrete implementation of the organization's projects.

The most crucial problem threatening the organization's future as well as its political and economic stability in the subregion is, of course, the Liberian conflict. President Rawlings reminded the heads of state present, and the various warlords involved in this fratricidal civil war that the international community, mainly the United Nations, might turn their backs on Liberia for good if the various negotiations under way to find lasting solutions to the conflict are fruitless.

Despite the difficulties confronting the ECOWAS, President Rawlings, however, remains optimistic, pointing out that the subregional leaders are capable of giving new impetus to the organization, which he described as indispensable for West Africa's survival. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Summit Ends; Communique Issued

AB2907193195 Accra Ghana Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in English 1800 GMT 29 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The 18th session of the authority of heads of state and government of ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] has ended in Accra with a resolve to work more assiduously toward the realization of the objectives of the subregional body. This was contained in a communique signed at the end of the two-day summit attended by four heads of state, and 12 top government officials representing their heads of state. This report by Raymond Bulley and Augustina Pake:

[Pake] Activities of the community has played second fiddle in the programs of member countries, and it is for this reason that the 18th summit vowed to do all it can to revive interest in ECOWAS to strengthen regional integration, and economic development of the subregion. Nonimplementation of resolutions was noted as a major drawback on the programs of the body. It was, therefore, emphasized that members should ratify resolutions adopted to facilitate their implementation.

The heads of state noted with concern the declining economic growth in the subregion and said it ought to be doing better since it is within the means of member states to control some of the factors responsible for the poor performance. They noted with satisfaction that over the past year, there were fresh initiatives to improve on the national economic management policies, and urged

that such efforts should continue in order to coordinate and harmonize economic policies of the region, and facilitate the integration process.

The heads of state and government also expressed concern about the continued expansion of the debt stock of member states in spite of efforts made to keep with their debt service obligations, and the steps by debtor nations to relieve some developing countries of their debts. They, therefore, urged member states to continue to pursue sound economic management policies to generate the necessary level of credibility to attract favorable attention from the international capital markets.

In a review of the implementation of specific activities under the monetary integration program of the subregion, the summit endorsed the decision of the Council of Ministers that all debts in the West African Clearing House should be settled by May next year.

On the Liberian crisis, the summit regretted the withdrawal of the Tanzanian and Ugandan troops from the regional peacekeeping force for lack of support from the international community. In this regard, it made a strong appeal to the United Nations not to withdraw its observer mission in Liberia because it is playing a vital role in the peace process. It also appealed to the Liberian faction leaders to rise above personal interests, and show the statesmanship needed to reach a workable compromise. They urged President Rawlings to continue to mediate in the crisis.

In his closing remarks, President Rawlings thanked the heads of state and government for his reelection. He emphasized that the chairmanship is a burden that he does not intend to carry alone, and hopes he would continue to receive the advice and support from all to build on the foundations that have been laid. He mentioned for instance, the president of Benin, President Nicephore Soglo, for his special support to him. He said after all the tiring deliberations that have been done, if the resolutions are not implemented, the aspirations of the people will not be met.

President Rawlings said his prime concern for the rest of the year is not to allow the lapses of the previous year to recur. He said he will send a special commission to follow up on member states to ensure that they pay their arrears. He said this is the least members can do to demonstrate their seriousness.

On the political front, he said it is unfortunate that the dark cloud of Liberia still hangs on the subregion. He said it is not only members that are tired, but their resources are also being exhausted. He again appealed

for commitment from the faction leaders, and support from members to salvage the war-torn sister country.

Official Outlines ECOWAS' Achievements

AB2907194395 Accra Ghana Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in English 1800 GMT 29 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Despite a slow pace of the implementation of ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] laudable and well-fashioned programs, one can put one's finger on some concrete projects which underline the useful standing of the organization to the subregion. Paul Adjetey-Dzane reports on some of these projects after an interview with the director of the Transport, Communications, and Energy Department of the ECOWAS, Dr. John Ceesay.

[Begin Adjetey-Dzane recording] Resources for ECOWAS projects' implementation are obtained partly from internal sources, comprising contributions from member states, interest on placements and loans, and partly through external sources, mainly development funding agencies such as the World Bank, European Investment Bank, the African Development Bank, and other donor agencies.

According to Dr. Ceesay, through such assistance the community has completed 85 percent of its priority telecommunications program. This involves the interconnection of all the capital towns through automatic telephone and telex links. The completed projects estimated at \$35 million are in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, and Guinea-Bissau. Others are Mali, Niger, Nigeria, and Togo.

On the road transport project, completed at the cost of \$24 million, Dr. Ceesay said the Lagos-Nouakchott Trans-Saharan, and the Trans-West African Highways, and the interconnecting roads have been completed. He said the fund also cofunded the construction of the Mono and Swazi bridges, the Save and Parakou and Parakou-Djougou roads in Benin, the Fada-Pama road, the Tindangu-Kompinga interconnecting roads in Burkina Faso, and the Liberian section of the Monrovia-Freetown Highway.

Dr. Ceesay noted that the ECOWAS energy program aimed at identifying priority measures for the supply of energy needs of member states, needs the vital coopera-

tion of all. The energy program calls for the formulation and implementation of an ECOWAS package for the production, supply, and distribution of petroleum and petroleum products.

The first phase of the project will be the supply of natural gas from Nigeria to Benin, Togo, and Ghana. He said prefeasibility studies reveal that it is feasible to construct a pipeline to supply Nigerian natural gas to the countries along the Gulf of Guinea. On the strength of these facts, the parties to the project, working in collaboration with ECOWAS and World Bank, are preparing the legal and institutional foundations for its takeoff.

Dr. Ceesay disclosed that a draft protocol agreement establishing the framework for cooperation between the beneficiaries has been prepared and submitted to the authorities for approval. However, at this stage, the scope of the project, and its profit-making bias require recruitment of a promoter from the private sector, and thus the World Bank, through a survey of 21 oil companies, has identified a promoter willing to finance the feasibility studies from its own funds up to a ceiling of \$2.5 million. [end recording]

New Treaty Comes Into Effect

AB3007162995 Accra Ghana Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in English 1300 GMT 30 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A new ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] Treaty has come into effect. This follows the ratification of the treaty signed in Benin in 1993. The director of the ECOWAS Information Center, Adama Gueye, who disclosed this in Accra, said the treaty was to have taken effect two years ago, but could not be implemented because it was not ratified by the required number of countries.

President Lansana Conte of Guinea and the chairman of the Liberian National Transitional Government, Professor David Kpomakpor, left for home today after attending the 18th ECOWAS summit in Accra. They were seen off at the airport by the ECOWAS chairman, President Jerry John Rawlings; ministers of state; the chief of defense staff, Air Marshal Harry Dumashie; the chief of staff General Headquarters, Brigadier Francis Agyemfra; the IGP [Inspector General of Police], Mr. J. Y. A. Kwofie; and members of the diplomatic corps.

Burundi**Kamenge Inhabitants Reportedly Fleeing Gunfire**

EA2807201795 Bujumbura Radio-Television Nationale du Burundi Radio in French 1800 GMT 28 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Gunfire has been heard in the north of Bujumbura since this morning. According to the head of the Kamenge location, contacted by phone, the gunfire came from rural Bujumbura. The population of Kamenge had to take flight toward military positions. [passage omitted]

Calm Returns to District

AB2907161095 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1215 GMT 29 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Calm has returned to Kamenge District in Bujumbura, Burundi, where once again exchange of fire between soldiers and armed groups forced the Hutus living there to flee the area yesterday morning. According to a military source, some members of the armed groups were among people who fled up to the hills overlooking the district. He added that other innocent inhabitants ran to the military positions there for protection. No report on the possible victims has been published so far. Kamenge District, one of the last Hutu strongholds still existing in northern Bujumbura, has been mopped up by elements of the National Armed Forces on many occasions over the past few months.

Hutu Gunmen Attack Vehicles in Bujumbura District

AB3007203595 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 30 Jul 95

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Violence flared between the Army and Hutu militia in the Burundian capital on Friday [28 July]. The same day, there were reports of intense clashes in Cibitoke, up north, and many people have remarked on the curious coincidence of an upsurge in fighting in Burundi when important visitors are in town. On Friday, it was the German foreign minister, Klaus Kinkel; and Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa. William Woles is in Bujumbura. Barnaby Philips asked him whether the weekend had been more peaceful in the capital?

[Begin recording] [Woles] On Saturday evening, one Hutu man was killed and two other Hutus were wounded, when Tutsi gunmen opened fire outside a psychiatric hospital in Bujumbura, where hundreds of displaced Hutus were gathered. There were also some unconfirmed reports that three other Hutu civilians were shot dead over the weekend, while trying to flee across

a major road outside the Hutu suburb of Kamenge. However, today, a lot of the shooting seems to have come down though there have been some sporadic outbursts up in the hills above Kamenge.

[Philips] So, on Friday, I know that Archbishop Desmond Tutu was there, and also the German foreign minister, Klaus Kinkel, appealing for peace. It would seem that their message fell on deaf ears?

[Woles] Yes, I think what Archbishop Tutu said was that South Africans had learned a very bitter lesson, and nobody wins in a civil war, and that they have to engage in negotiations, and be as inclusive as possible in these negotiations. However, it does seem as you said that this has fallen on deaf ears. The shooting has been continuing this weekend. One local journalist said to me yesterday that all these delegations coming to preach peace had come a little late, that things have gone too far now, and Burundians can't stop the momentum of war.

[Philips] So, William, I also understand that this week, you've been touring some of the war-torn suburbs of Bujumbura. What did see, and where did you go?

[Woles] Well, I went down also to the area of (Kanyosha) which is on the southern edge of Bujumbura, and it remains completely deserted. There was a military operation there about three weeks ago allegedly to comb through the area in search of Hutu rebels, and it was alleged that, in fact, over 100 Hutu civilians were killed during this operation. The population has evidently not been encouraged to come back. They are still up on the hills somewhere. I talked to a local Tutsi official there, and he said the military was trying to secure the area to avoid further attacks on passing vehicles. There have been a number of attacks by Hutu gunmen on passing vehicles on the road via (Kanyosha). [end recording]

Government Directed To Implement Emergency Measures

EA2807190995 Bujumbura Radio-Television Nationale du Burundi Radio in French 0430 GMT 28 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Security Council met yesterday under the chairmanship of the head of state, Mr. Sylvestre Ntibantunganya. Only one item was on the agenda, namely an assessment of how to implement measures aimed at restoring peace, security, and trust in Burundi, following the National Assembly's refusal to allow the government to rule by decree.

The council members discussed the National Assembly's negative attitude during this period of serious crisis in the country, and refused to believe that the National

Assembly had wanted to oppose the return to peace, with all the dangers that implies for the country. This was probably a misunderstanding.

On the implementation of the measures, the National Security Council made a distinction between measures pertaining to law and to regulatory measures. [sentence as heard] It was noted that those pertaining to law are very few but very important. That is why the National Security Council is issuing the following directives to the government:

All the measures adopted by the National Security Council and announced by the head of state in his 18 June address must be implemented — without any exception;

On those measures pertaining to the law, the government must do everything to ensure their adoption by the National Assembly first, and then resort to other institutional mechanisms where necessary;

All other measures must be implemented with the necessary firmness and rigor.

The government must regularly assess the measures' effects in order to adapt and correct them in time. All institutions: The National Assembly, the government, political organizations, and civilian associations, must behave patriotically in these particularly difficult times.

Chad

Former President Oueddei Joins Opposition

LD3107084595 Paris Radio France International
in French 0630 GMT 31 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A familiar face has reappeared on the Chadian political scene: Goukouni Oueddei. Once again it is as part of a rebel movement. After several years in retirement the former president — who did in fact attend the National Conference — and his movement, the Chad National Liberation Front [Frolinat], have decided to ally with the Armed Forces for the Federal Republic of the southern rebel chief, Laokein Barde. At first sight this alliance is somewhat surprising. Christophe Boisbouvier:

[Boisbouvier] One would think that the northern Muslim, Goukouni Oueddei, and the southern Christian, Laokein Barde, have nothing in common. But the two men, who met somewhere in Africa in the middle of July, have a shared aim: To step up pressure on Idriss Deby. Two years ago Goukouni gave his support to Deby's moves toward political openness: he took part in the Ndjamena national conference. Now he has made a volte face. We contacted Oueddei in Algiers:

[Begin recording] [Goukouni] Once the armed opposition has managed to unite, we will be in a position to say that the political and military opposition is a counterweight to the existing regime.

[Boisbouvier] Do you envisage going down the military road against Idriss Deby?

[Goukouni] Yes, I do not rule out that possibility. Personally, I hope we can use political means. But will Idriss accept this? I do not think so. We want to create a kind of solid alliance that will force Idriss to make a lasting reconciliation. [end recording]

[Boisbouvier] Dialogue remains possible of course, but for the moment the rebels refuse to go to Ndjamena, while the government will not hear of a conference outside the country.

Rwanda

Priest Arrested in France Charged With Genocide

LD2907165795 Brussels La Une Radio Network
in French 1600 GMT 29 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Father Wenceslas Munyeshyaka has been arrested in France. He is charged with genocide, torture, ill-treatment, and inhuman and degrading acts. Father Wenceslas had taken refuge in the Ardeche with the help of the French Catholic church. Here is Joseph Mataga, former secretary general of the Rwandan Association for the Defense of Human Rights. He took part in the commission of enquiry into the genocide which was set up by human rights organizations in Rwanda. Valerie Hirsch asked him how Father Wenceslas took part in the genocide:

[Begin Mataga recording] I do not think anyone can say that Munyeshyaka killed anyone with his own hands, or that he knowingly tortured anyone. However, he collaborated with the militia who kept coming to the Sainte Famille parish, and at one time, when the UNAMIR [UN Assistance Mission in Rwanda] was evacuating people to Kamuga in the RPF [Rwandan Patriotic Front] zone, he refused to allow some young Tutsis to be evacuated, although they were in danger because the Interahamwe had just killed about 80 young men. You see, he did not try to help as much as he could in the evacuation [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Victims' Lawyer Comments on Arrest

LD2907230995 Paris Radio France International
in French 2130 GMT 29 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Father Wenceslas Munyeshyaka, the priest who fled to France, and who is accused of having taken part in last year's genocide, has

been questioned by an examining magistrate and taken into custody. He was detained yesterday afternoon by gendarmes in the Drome department. Moctar Gawad reports:

[Gawad] [passage omitted] On Monday [31 July], the lawyer for the plaintiffs, William Bourdon, will be received by the examining magistrate. Bourdon expressed his satisfaction at the detention of Father Wenceslas. He hopes that beyond this particular case, the whole truth as to the massacres will be established, and that those presumed responsible for the Rwandan genocide last year will be prosecuted. Bourdon says:

[Begin Bourdon recording] What is important is that war criminals, whoever they are, should not be able to regard this or that territory as able to give them shelter in order to protect them from being punished. That is the essential thing, and the response to such attempts is indeed the international mechanisms, which I asked the (?minister of) justice to apply. We have to hope that the same steps will be taken by my colleagues of the Douala Bar, the Nairobi Bar, which are towns that are sheltering some of the criminals. [end recording]

[Gawad] As for the French Catholic Church, they are waiting for the results of the investigation before commenting on this latest turn in the Wenceslas affair. The bishop of the diocese of Viviers, which covers the church of Bourg-St-Andeol where the Rwandan priest officiated, is talking about a conspiracy. Bonfils has reaffirmed his support for Father Wenceslas:

[Begin Bonfils recording] The truth of these accusations still has to be proven. My belief is that Father Wenceslas is innocent. If I am asked to bear witness, I will speak in his favor, because from what I know of him since he has been here in Ardeche, I can only give him a good character. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Ex-Subprefect Koloni, Four Others Murdered

EA2907201395 Kigali Radio Rwanda in French
1800 GMT 29 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Rwandan radio correspondent in Gitarama reports that the former subprefect of Ruhango Subprefecture, Mr. Placide Koloni, was murdered by unidentified people together with four other people, including his wife on Thursday, 27 July. The five bodies were found in the late Koloni's house at Ruhango.

The murder of Mr. Placide Koloni occurs just a few days after he was temporarily released from prison. He was arrested on suspicion of involvement in last year's genocide. The circumstances surrounding Koloni's murder remain unclear, but his neighbors said they heard

an explosion on Thursday night, while a member of the UNAMIR [UN Assistance Mission in Rwanda] contingent deployed in the area said he saw Koloni's house catch fire just after the explosion.

The killing of Mr. Placide Koloni comes in the aftermath of a wave of demonstrations in Gitarama Prefecture against the release of some people suspected of having participated in last year's genocide. Such persons include the notorious Wenceslas Sekaziga, the former president of Musambira Communal Court. The national commission in charge of screening detained genocide suspects released Mr. Sekaziga but later had to take him back to prison following mounting public protest against his release.

Zaire

Seven Reported Dead in Protest March 29 Jul

AB2907134395 Paris AFP in English
1247 GMT 29 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kinshasa, 29 Jul (AFP) — At least six demonstrators and a soldier were killed Saturday [29 July] during a protest march against the regime of Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko, reliable sources said. Sources close to the security forces said a sergeant with the Civil Guard who ordered his troops to keep the marchers away from the People's Palace, where the transition parliament meets, was mobbed by demonstrators and killed with his own gun. The troops then fired on the marchers, killing six of them, they said.

The march, organized by the opposition PALU [Unified Lumumbist Party] party, had not been announced nor received official authorization. It was called to protest "the continuing dictatorship of Marshal Mobutu" and delays in the country's transition to democracy, organizers said.

PALU, the Unified Lumumbist Party, is led by Antoine Gizenga, a veteran of a 1964 rebellion in Zaire that claimed some tens of thousands of lives. After being sentenced to death, Gizenga was amnestied early in the democratization process in 1990. He returned to Kinshasa in 1992 to found PALU.

PALU Leader, Family Arrested

AB2907181095 Paris AFP in English
1740 GMT 29 Jul 95

[By Mario Fiorito]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kinshasa, 29 Jul (AFP) — Zairian troops opened fire on demonstrators opposed to President Mobutu Sese Seko on Saturday [29 July], killing six, after a mob attacked a sergeant and killed

him with his own gun, official sources said. The sergeant with the Civil Guard had ordered his troops to keep the marchers away from the People's Palace, where the transitional parliament meets, the sources close to security forces said.

After demonstrators attacked and killed him with his own gun, troops fired on the marchers, killing eight and injuring 18, hospital sources said. Nine soldiers were also injured in the melee.

The march, organized by the opposition PALU [Unified Lumumbist Party] party, had not been announced nor had it received official authorization. It was called to protest "the continuing dictatorship of Marshal Mobutu," who has ruled Zaire since 1960, and a two-year delay in the country's transition to democracy, organizers said.

PALU, the Unified Lumumbist Party, is led by Antoine Gizenga, a veteran of a 1964 rebellion in Zaire that claimed tens of thousands of lives. He was also a former deputy premier to Patrice Lumumba after whom the party is named and who was Zaire's first post-independence premier. After being sentenced to death, Gizenga was amnestied early in the democratization process in 1990. He returned to Kinshasa in 1992 to found PALU.

A PALU spokesman said Gizenga's home in Kinshasa's Limete area had been surrounded by soldiers since early Saturday. Shots were fired at the building, the spokesman added. Gizenga was arrested at his home, and he and his family were "taken to an unknown destination," said a PALU spokesman.

The security forces, who said the demonstration was dispersed in the afternoon, admitted surrounding Gizenga's house, adding that an M-16 assault rifle "which had just been used" was recovered from the building.

A PALU spokesman said that most of the civilians killed had died not outside the People's Palace, but inside the private home of Antoine Gizenga in a working class neighborhood.

Gizenga was also a leader of the massive demonstrations that shook Zaire in 1964.

The Zairian Government has released no official statement on the clash.

Opposition, Human Rights Group React

AB3007193395 *Libreville Africa No. 1 in French*
1215 GMT 30 Jul 95

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In Zaire, a demonstration by the Unified Lumumbist Party [PALU] in Kinshasa yesterday ended in tragedy. According to media reports, nine people died following police intervention but that figure is being contested: The Kinshasa governor, (Bernardin Moungou Liyaka), claims six people died in the incident. One thing is certain though: the incident claimed some lives. The Kinshasa governor explained what happened to Kamanda wa Kamanda Muzembe.

[(Liyaka)] "Security services informed me that there was indeed a violent march by fighters from some areas of the capital. I wish to stress that not all the areas of the capital took part in the demonstration. Some of the fighters, as the government stated, marched down the streets clearly as though they were stoned, because nobody in their right mind would march down the streets half-naked, shouting absolutely obscene slogans. They wanted to take control of the Palais du Peuple, and to install the PALU leader, Antoine Gizenga, as head of state. They attacked the guard at the Palais du Peuple, and killed a sergeant with stones and pieces of iron rod. They marched down to Antoine Gizenga's residence, which also serves as his party's offices, to install him as head of state. Scuffles ensued, and the sergeant died. Six PALU members died in the incident. I think that is the final death toll." [passage omitted]

[Announcer] There have been several reactions to the incident. Joseph Olenghankoy, leader of the Innovational Forces of the Sacred Union, has commented on the incident from New York. He deplores the path of violence adopted by the government, and supports the PALU in its efforts to fight President Mobutu's regime's misuse of power.

[Olenghankoy] "Our people have just proved their determination to get rid of dictatorship. I wish to pay tribute to and commend the PALU fighters who have just given a demonstration of a liberation struggle. It is clear that Antoine Gizenga has been arrested, so I urge the government and its firebrand, Kengo wa Dondo, to release him immediately. The government must be brought down: It is incapable of protecting lives and property. The opposition has worked out all the necessary strategies based on the people's aspirations. Our people, the supreme sovereigns, have made their discontent known to the authorities through the PALU, and this is very important. UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali will receive me at 1030 tomorrow

morning, and I will brief him on the situation. We want the international community to bear witness to what is happening. We will use every means possible to bring down this dictatorial regime."

[Announcer] The Zairian Human Rights Association has also reacted to the incident. It issued a communique yesterday, calling for legal proceedings to be initiated against those who killed the victims. Kamanda wa Kamanda Muzembe has details on the communique:

[Muzembe] "According to a communique issued by the association in Kinshasa, several independent reports indicate that the demonstration was a peaceful one, so the Army's use of force was unjustified. The association stated that several dozen soldiers identified as belonging to the military intelligence services and the Civil Guard, brutally prevented the demonstrators from staging the march which the PALU had planned to protest the extension of the democratic transitional period.

According to a report compiled by the association, the incident left about a dozen people dead. Two of them died from gunshot wounds, and about 40 were wounded. The association further stated that Antoine Gizenga's residence in Limete suburb was surrounded by soldiers who seized or destroyed PALU documents, and Antoine Gizenga's personal effects. The association, therefore, strongly urges the government to initiate legal proceedings against those who masterminded and carried out the repressive acts, and pay compensation to all the victims, including the PALU." [passage omitted]

Government Claims 10 Dead

AB3007194195 Paris AFP in English
1815 GMT 30 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kinshasa, 30 Jul (AFP) — Ten people including a security officer died during a

demonstration by members of the opposition PALU [Unified Lumumbists Party] group, according to a government statement broadcast Sunday [30 July] on national radio and television.

Massegabio Nzanzu, minister of information and government spokesman said the unofficial protest on Saturday morning had intended to invade the People's Palace, the building housing the transition parliament and to proclaim Unified Lumumbists Party (PALU) leader Antoine Gizenga as president.

Nzanzu condemned the "violent" nature of the demonstration in which nine PALU members and a police officer died. He said PALU members had been carrying molotov cocktails and an M-16 assault rifle had been discovered at Gizenga's home. Nzanzu said Gizenga would appear before the courts. However Nzanzu gave no details of the conditions of Gizenga's detention.

According to PALU, Gizenga was arrested at his home, which was then looted and he was taken away with his wife to an unknown destination. A PALU spokesman, Gifusa Ginday said his party's demonstration had been a peaceful protest and had been intended to protest against the continuing dictatorship of Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko and the extension for two years of the period of transition to democracy.

Kenya

UK Development Minister Pays Official Visit

Stresses UK Political Neutrality

EA2807162295 Nairobi Kenya Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 1300 GMT 28 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The British minister for overseas development, Baroness Lynda Chalker, said in Nairobi today, that the opposition has a role to play in improving the political atmosphere in the country by behaving responsibly. She told a press conference at the British High Commission that there was need for the political temperature in the country to cool down to pave the way for development, noting that tension between the government and the opposition is not in the interest of Kenyans.

Baroness Chalker denied that the British Government favored the KANU [Kenya African National Union] government, adding that it has always expressed concern when necessary regarding political and economic issues. She said the British were most concerned about the people of Kenya, and could therefore not act on an issue without exercising patience and proper investigation.

The British minister, who arrived in the country yesterday, said Kenya has made tremendous progress in the area of economic reform, and congratulated Minister Musalia Mudavadi for his 16th June budget, which she described as forward looking. Regarding the recently published political parties bill, the minister said she believed the Kenyan Parliament will discuss it exhaustively and come up with a legislation that suits the country.

She said she was not here to advance the cause of any political party, reiterating that she will not meet Dr. Richard Leakey, a founder member of the yet-to-be-registered Safina Party. Baroness Chalker said Kenya was a vital country in the region with vast potential, and reminded politicians that accusations and counter accusations are not in the interests of the people of Kenya. The minister said it was important that Kenya remains stable, so as to continue attracting investors, noting that competition for the same had increased tremendously.

[Nairobi KNA in English at 1335 GMT on 28 July added, in an item on the same news conference: "Mrs. Chalker pledged her country's continued economic support for Kenya, and said the government should reciprocate to this gesture by keeping her house in order to attract more aid.

"The British minister will tour Nakuru and Kisumu, and later hold talks with President Daniel arap Moi and meet leaders of opposition parties."]

Meets President

EA2807192995 Nairobi Kenya Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 1600 GMT 28 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi this afternoon at State House, Nairobi, held two-hour talks with the British minister for overseas development, Baroness Lynda Chalker. The talks centered on bilateral and regional issues. [passage omitted]

Reassures President of Continued Aid

EA2907155795 Nairobi Kenya Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 0400 GMT 29 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The British minister of state for Africa and the Commonwealth and minister for overseas development, Baroness Lynda Chalker, has reassured President Moi that her country's aid for projects in the country will continue, contrary to media reports alleging that she had announced that Britain had frozen aid to Kenya. The minister, who held two hours of talks with President Moi at State House, Nairobi, yesterday afternoon, praised the key role which President Moi and the Government of Kenya were playing in regional affairs, and the good progress made in implementing economic reforms in the country. Baroness Chalker welcomed the government's intention to establish an improved mechanism to facilitate effective communications with the donor community, hoping that the progress on financial and political reform would soon enable the release of funds as reconfirmed at the consultative group meeting in Paris in December last year.

Says UK Links Aid to Political Reform

EA2807223595 Nairobi KTN Television Network in English 1600 GMT 28 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The British Government is full of praise to the economic achievements and anti-corruption efforts being made by the Kenyan Government, but remains disturbed by the slow pace recorded on the political front.

Baroness Lynda Chalker, the British minister for overseas development, says her government is still holding back nearly 880 million Kenyan shillings, out of a total of 1.3 billion Kenyan shillings pledged at the donors consultative meeting last December, until across the board reforms are fully installed. Baroness Chalker, who arrived here yesterday, was addressing a press conference at the British High Commission this afternoon:

[Begin Chalker recording] We have always been concerned about economic and political reform, and respect for human rights. You will remember some three years ago, when I was still doing this job, I made the decision that has always been the policy of the British Government. I am making no new announcements about aid. I will watch with great care what is happening on all fronts. Only when we are satisfied that the concerns of the people of Kenya — it's not what we think, it's for the people of Kenya that I am so concerned — and that is why these issues have got to be addressed. [sentence as heard] [end recording]

Holds News Conference

EA2907152095 Nairobi KTN Television Network in English 1800 GMT 28 Jul 95

[News conference by Baroness Lynda Chalker, UK minister for overseas development, with unidentified and domestic correspondents at the UK Embassy in Nairobi on 28 July — recorded]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] [Chalker] I am delighted to be back in Kenya. I arrived here late on Wednesday [26 July]. [passage omitted] I met [the] foreign minister this morning, and we had a useful review of regional issues. Kenya is a key country in East Africa, and naturally we discussed Sudan and other problems, but also East African cooperation. That is particularly important for the long term prosperity of Kenya. This afternoon I shall meet His Excellency The President and the leader of the opposition, then tomorrow I shall be visiting Nakuru and Kisumu.

I was last here 18 months ago. I am very much struck by the progress that has been made on economic matters. There is liberalization of many sectors. It is difficult to imagine two years ago that Finance Minister Mudavadi would have been able to present such a forward-looking budget, as he did some weeks ago now.

The United Kingdom is continuing to support economic reform. I know that the Government of Kenya has some difficult decisions to take in the next phase, but I also know that with the help of the Central Bank, whose deputy governor I have just been talking to, real progress can be made and that the Government of Kenya intends to make that progress.

In today's world no country can isolate itself from its neighbors or the international community. That is true in economic affairs but also in political affairs. Investors and businessmen want stability. They want to do business in sound, politically healthy environments. This isn't a question of pleasing the donor community. Kenya's image in the outside world is a vital factor for Kenya's development. Kenya is now in more compe-

tition than at any time with other countries attracting investments.

Two years ago Kenya didn't have the challenge of South Africa that she now has in attracting investment. Other countries had not liberalized to the stage they have now achieved, so there is further competition there.

Now you all know, there is absolutely no secret, that United Kingdom's Government has concern about this. We have concern about the treatment of opposition parties, about the treatment of the press. We have heard very disturbing reports of some legal cases.

We know the horrors of the ethnic tensions that this country went through, and we know the evils of corruption that face many countries but also face Kenya. That means that all sides have a role, and I do emphasize that all sides have a role to play in improving the political atmosphere. Naturally, the initiative lies with the Government of Kenya. Initiatives always lie with governments, but oppositions have to be responsible too, otherwise the democratic process breaks down.

I am looking forward to discussing all these issues with the president. I am looking forward to seeing Kenya continue its economic reform, and for there to be a cooling down both from government and opposition of the tension which is apparent to us all. We all need to cool it. We need to talk honestly in private, and that the British Government will always do.

We need also to think about the needs of the people of Kenya: Kenya's need for growth, stability, for open dialogue, and proper democratic government, and I am quite sure that that can be achieved. Perhaps a step back from the political brinkmanship, cooling of the invective, and we can achieve a better outcome for Kenyan people in the years to come. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Given that the government has shown such bad faith in introducing democratic reforms and political reforms, why doesn't the UK support the German and Scandinavian position of cutting back aid more immediately than the UK has done?

[Chalker] I have made no new announcement of aid. I am unlikely to do so but I do believe there is progress being made in the economic reforms which are essential for the stability of Kenya, and we should recognize that and encourage that further. But I have made it absolutely clear, as I did in my statement, that there is much progress needed on the political front.

[Correspondent] Will aid continue to be attached to [word indistinct] economic reforms?

[Chalker] I will not make any further announcement of aid until I am satisfied not only about political reform

but also about economic reform and the respect of human rights. All those things go together.

[Correspondent] Isn't it on this basis, and the continued support of the UK to the government that it's failing to initiate moves toward democracy or discussing with the opposition?

[Chalker] Well, if you look back — you will remember I have been the minister for Africa now since 1986 — there has been improvement; not enough yet, not enough to satisfy the Kenyan people. I know that, I understand that, but the important thing is that there has been progress, there has been progress not only on the economic front but in dealing with corruption — very necessary progress. There has been progress in dealing with the drugs problems — very necessary progress, [there is] more yet to be done. There has been progress, but not enough, even in the democratic sphere, but we are into [a] particularly sensitive time at the moment, and that is why I use the phrase a cooling, both on the government side, and on the opposition side, because you cannot have responsible democratic government without responsible democratic opposition, as well as with the government party, and I am afraid we are not at that happy point yet, so there's a lot of work to be done.

[Correspondent] How concerned are you that the auditor general's report has been seriously delayed, and will not appear I think until October or even later than that?

[Chalker] We're naturally concerned. We're obviously concerned, but the auditor general's report should be published in full, as it was written, revealing all that it has found. I hope that will happen without further delay, but there is a concern as you rightly say, because it is predicted that the publication is delayed. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] How much aid is in the pipeline?

[Chalker] Well there's nothing specifically in the pipeline. I'm not making any forward pledges or intentions. I'm waiting to see.

[Correspondent] Would you have made any by now in the normal course of things. Would any pledges have been made by now?

[Chalker] I might have been able to do some further work to help, if I'd been happy with what was happening. I'm sad as much as anything because this country has the real potential for doing so well. [passage omitted]

[(Emmanuel Jimako, KBC) What do you make of accusations from members of the opposition that the British Government tends to intentionally turn a blind

eye, and a deaf ear to some of the ills which have been done?

[Chalker] It's not true. That's the first thing, but I'm not going to wind up the temperature on this matter. I'm not in business to try to create more hot air and accusations. What I do say is: We study very carefully every single thing that's going on, whether it's said or done by government or opposition, and that is why I believe it is right that there should be a cooling of the current political temperature both on the part of government, and on the part of opposition.

If you look at the British Parliament — some of you may have seen the television shots of prime minister's question time — there are an awful lot of things that get said there that are not repeated outside Parliament, in other words parliamentary privilege which allows that to be said in Parliament does not mean that those accusations go on being said outside Parliament. That is if you like, the cooling that needs to go on in a democracy. It doesn't mean that the accusations have not been made, nor that they are not investigated — of course they should be — but it doesn't help anybody, it doesn't help the people of Kenya to have charges and counter charges.

I'll give you one small example: I get fed back to me in Britain things that are sometimes said about me here. They are totally untrue but that doesn't stop me wanting to go on helping the people of Kenya, and it doesn't stop me going on listening to, and watching what is going on. In other words a politician has to do their business perhaps at two levels, sometimes to speak out in Parliament, but to get on with the job behind the scenes, and Britain is getting on with the job behind the scenes.

[Correspondent] [question indistinct]

[Chalker] It is not for me to judge the legislation which is not yet finalized that the attorney general brought forward, which will govern whether Safina is registered or not, or should govern whether Safina is registered or not. Can I just say Dr. Leakey was a moving force in putting the Kenya Wildlife Service on its feet. That was how I came to meet him, that I have met many many other Kenyans of all backgrounds.

I am not here to advance the case of any individual or any single party. Britain's concern with Kenya is that it should stay on the right economic road, and one of the reasons why I will not make any decision about future assistance is also whether Kenya will meet the needs of the international financial community for an enhanced structural adjustment facility, because I am certain they

are not going to move further unless they do, and then will the other considerations come into play.

So, if I can just say this: It is for Kenya to sort out her party legislation, registration — but it should be open, fair, and evenly applied to all, and that is really the answer, I think, to your question. [passage omitted]

Somalia

Aidid Vows End to 'Rape, Murder' in Country

*AB2807222095 Paris AFP in English
1551 GMT 28 Jul 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mogadishu, July 28 (AFP) — Warlord Mohamed Farah Aidid Friday [28 July] vowed he would end rape, murder and illegal occupation of farmland in the lower Shabelle region of southern Somalia.

General Aidid, proclaimed "interim president" of Somalia by his supporters last month, made the pledge in the Qoryoley district 70 kilometres (40 miles) south of Mogadishu as he toured the region accompanied by 20 battle-wagons painted in the colours of his new "national army."

"The newly formed government will not tolerate such behaviour any more," said the general, announcing that

he had appointed a nine-member committee to probe cases.

He also visited banana plantations in the area, where militiamen sang new songs: "We say no... no... to the colonialists ... Long life to our comrade Aidid..."

"Where are the US and UN helicopters?" Aidid asked the crowds, referring to an unsuccessful and bloody manhunt for him in 1993 as US and UN troops who arrived to halt looting of food convoys to famine victims became embroiled in Somalia's clan warfare.

"We destroyed the foreign aggressors," Aidid said, "and the internal ones will follow them soon ... but we assure them of forgiveness if they collaborate with the government."

A committee of banana plantation workers meanwhile produced a list of 57 people they said had been killed by militiamen enforcing slave labour for two banana producing companies, one controlled by the US-based Dole Corporation, the other by Italian interests.

Some of those killed had been weighted down with sandbags and thrown in rivers and others incinerated, said committee chairman Mohamed Ramadan Arbow.

He appealed for a worldwide boycott of Somali bananas.

Muslims March To Protest Bosnian Arms Embargo

*MB2807151295 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1431 GMT 28 Jul 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pretoria July 28 SAPA — About 1,500 Muslims on Friday [28 July] marched on the Pretoria office of the United Nations Development Programme to press for the lifting of an American arms embargo against Bosnia.

Police kept a close watch as the protesters burned American, Russian and British flags, screaming: "You are murderers, stop the killings, stop."

March co-ordinator and chairman of the holocaust committee, Abdul Kader, handed a memorandum to UN representative David Whaley.

Whaley said he would forward it to UN Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali and UN Security Council President Gerdo Martinez- Blanco.

The memorandum called for the lifting of the arms embargo, saying the UN presence in the former Yugoslavia was "of little consequence to the restoration of peace in war-torn Bosnia".

"The UN has so far failed to safeguard Bosnian Muslim lives. They must now lift the arms embargo and leave it to the Muslims. They will handle it on their own," Kader said.

A representative of the Muslim Students' Association said the arms embargo and the declaration of demilitarised safe havens by the UN "have rendered the Bosnian population into concentrated pockets of unarmed civilians awaiting brutal death at the hands of the murderous Serbian onslaught".

"Of the six safe havens, Zepa and Srebrenica have fallen, Gorazde and Bihac are under Serbian attack. How many more lives need to be lost before the UN decides to take realistic action?"

The marchers dispersed peacefully after Whaley signed the memorandum.

Further on Cape Town, Pretoria Protests

*MB2807182295 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network
in English 1600 GMT 28 Jul 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Muslims protesting against the Serb onslaught in Bosnia took to the streets again today in Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, and Pretoria. These reports from Ed Herbst and Leonie Kok.

[Begin recording] [Herbst] In Cape Town, several thousand Muslims marched through District Six to the American and Israeli embassies to deliver petitions of concern and protest about the situation in Bosnia.

The entrance to the American embassy was manned by policemen carrying riot shields. Although there was the odd scuffle among the emotionally charged crowd, discipline was well maintained. Many of the marchers' faces were covered by Palestinian scarves, and they shouted slogans such as "Death to America," and "Death to Israel." The chairman of the Bosnian Action Group, Sheikh Nazim Mohamed, delivered a petition to an embassy official.

The crowd then left for the Israeli embassy, the only token of their presence being an embassy coat of arms which had a Star of David sprayed on it. Things became tense at the Israeli embassy, as tempers threatened to get out of hand, but the police kept a low profile and marshals managed to calm the angry crowd, which then dispersed.

[Kok] Here [in Pretoria] emotions ran high, as more than a thousand angry Muslims converged on the UN offices in the city center. Traffic piled up at the crowd blocked intersections, burning American flags and posters in protest. The Committee to Stop the Holocaust of Muslims is calling for the withdrawal of UN troops from Bosnia. The UN representative who later received the group's memorandum found it difficult to get a word in. The chanting drowned out his efforts. The group also demanded that the UN suspends its arms embargo on Bosnia. Although the crowd was rowdy, there were no incidents of violence. [end recording]

Islamic Party Warns Russia, Israel on Bosnia

*MB2907162295 Johannesburg SAfm Radio Network
in English 0500 GMT 29 Jul 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Islamic Party has warned the Russian and Israeli consulates in Cape Town to be prepared for a backlash for refusing to receive Muslim delegations during yesterday's Muslim protests in the city. Islamic Party spokesman (Hashim Freddy) said refusal by the embassies to meet the delegations was a clear indication that they had no sympathy for the plight of the Bosnian Muslims.

Muslims Join Bosnian Call-Up, Train at Secret Venue

*MB2807165895 Johannesburg MAIL & GUARDIAN
in English 28 Jul-3 Aug 95 p 6*

[Report by Shadley Nash]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Eastern Cape Muslims responding to a call to take up arms against the rebel Serbs in Bosnia are being trained in guerrilla warfare at a secret venue outside Port Elizabeth.

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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31 July 1995

Sources have also confirmed that a training ground has been established in Pietermaritzburg and another is expected to be established in Cape Town.

The call for South African Muslims to join the Jihad (Holy War) in Bosnia was made this week by the Port Elizabeth-based Bosnian Holocaust Committee, hoping to muster some 1,000 men in the province to join a national movement.

According to committee spokesman Rashard Davids, training in guerrilla warfare was already taking place at a secret venue outside the city.

Said Davids: "This is not a joke, we are not playing games here."

He said that Muslims around the country are expected to respond to the call for men to join the Jihad.

While Davids would not disclose the venue, it is believed to be located on a small holding at Greenbushes outside the city, owned by a wealthy Muslim businessman. The businessman was instrumental in calling Muslims to arms during the Gulf War to fight on the side of Iraqis.

According to one source, training on the farm consists of horse training, hand-to-hand combat, use of weaponry like sticks and knives, and the use of automatic weapons.

The source said that training in survival techniques and how to live off the land was also offered. According to the source, the training was conducted by SANDF [South African National Defense Force] commando volunteers.

"Training takes place on Sundays after Fajr (the early morning prayer time for Muslims) and on Wednesday evenings after Magrieb (the early evening prayer)."

Volunteers, upon entering the training programme, are given Hidayaat (guidance counselling) first. "The object is to develop the individual spiritually and then physically," the source said.

The training ground consists of an obstacle course and a shooting range, where training in the use of automatic weapons is allegedly provided by SANDF commando volunteers.

Davids said his committee had appointed three lawyers to investigate the legal aspects of raising an army to fight on foreign soil. He also said that his committee was informed that Muslims from other countries were making their way to Bosnia to join the Jihad.

"The Jihad is an Islamic call to war to defend Muslims and it is incumbent on every Muslim to take up that call," Davids said.

But, while there is a strong emphasis on military training, medical and humanitarian aid was also a priority.

We want to arm ourselves and fight whichever way we can, on the battlefield or on the medical and humanitarian field," he said.

Meanwhile, thousands of Muslims around the country are expected to take part in marches in various centres on Friday to register their "disgust at the failure of the United Nations to take decisive action to stop the carnage".

Iranian Oil Deal Reportedly Strains Ties With U.S.

MB3007205895 Gaborone Radio Botswana Network in English 1910 GMT 30 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A South African newspaper says a crude oil deal with Iran, the importation of chickens, and links with Cuba have soured relations between South Africa and the United States. Quoting diplomatic sources, the SUNDAY INDEPENDENT said today that foremost among the disputes is a multimillion dollar deal with Iran that will allow it to store 15 million barrels of crude oil at Saldanha Bay on South Africa's west coast.

Under the deal, Iran will not be charged for using the storage facility, but South Africa will get 50 percent of profits from commercial sales. An American diplomat was quoted as saying it is inappropriate to provide Tehran with additional financial resources while it supports terrorism and pursues weapons of mass destruction. But South Africa's Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Mr. Pik Botha reportedly said he had to act in South Africa's best interests.

The paper said the most visible clash last week involved intense lobbying by the Republican speaker, Newt Gingrich, regarding a 2,500 tonne mountain of frozen American chickens on a ship in Cape Town Harbor. He wants South Africa to waive new import tariffs on the 10.5-million-rands shipment by an American company.

Pressure was reportedly put on Trade and Industry Minister Mr. Trevor Manuel and Deputy President Mr. Thabo Mbeki, but both men refused to budge. The South African Government said the new tariffs have been overdue, as chickens dumped in South Africa have led to job losses in the local industry.

The paper said further straining the relations is South Africa's links with Cuba. South Africa has established diplomatic relations with Cuba and announced last week that it will host a solidarity conference with Havana in October to oppose the U.S. blockade against it.

One of the conference patrons, South African Justice Minister Mr. Dullah Omar said Cuba deserved support as an expression of concrete appreciation of the role it played in South Africa's liberation. The paper said four American congressmen warned that South Africa's policy on Cuba would harm Congress' relations with South Africa.

Rights Groups Upset Over Agreement on Iranian Oil

*MB2807171395 Johannesburg MAIL & GUARDIAN
in English 28 Jul-3 Aug 95 p 12*

[Report by Rehana Rossouw]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The oil trade and oil money are probably the dirtiest in the world, and South Africa was soiling its human rights track record and possibly its environment by agreeing to store Iranian oil, say critics of a multimillion-rand deal between South Africa and Iran.

The Central Energy Fund (CEF) announced last week that it had brokered a deal, which will be finalised soon, to store 15-million barrels of Iranian oil at Saldanha Bay.

The announcement once again raised questions about South Africa's foreign policy objectives and its willingness to deal with countries accused of severe human rights abuses. Iran has one of the highest execution rates in the world, still detains political opponents without trial and tortures them, and reserves positions in government for adherents of one religion.

The oil deal will generate between R700-million [rands] and R1-billion annually, and the CEF is hoping tankers will begin offloading the oil next month into two tanks previously used to hoard South African reserves during the sanctions era.

Earthlife Africa representative Greg Knill said oil money was probably "the dirtiest in the world" and said his organisation deplored South Africa grasping at it.

"Oil money props up repressive regimes all over the world, Nigeria and Indonesia being good examples of this. In Nigeria, Shell Oil struck an ungodly alliance with an oppressive regime to supply troops to counter local protest against its poor environmental track record. What will South Africa do for Iranian companies?" Knill asked.

This view was echoed by foreign policy expert Peter Vale, who has in the past criticised the "schizophrenia" in the Department of Foreign Affairs, which simultaneously advocated championing human rights and traded with countries which do not uphold human rights.

"This deal once again illustrates that the human rights sympathies of the South African people have still not filtered through to the foreign policy establishment," Vale said.

Parliamentary foreign affairs select committee member Rob Davies disagreed, saying that if South Africa only did business with countries with a good human rights record, it would cut itself off from a substantial amount of foreign trade.

"You can't automatically assume that if a country has a poor human rights record, South Africa will not do business with it or have diplomatic dealings with it," Davies said.

"South Africa can promote human rights in the international arena in a variety of ways. From the little information available, this deal is clearly a commercial arrangement and there shouldn't be any problems with it."

"When countries impose sanctions, it is a political campaign, not a commercial campaign. If we use the argument that the deal should be shafted because America believes so strongly about human rights in Iran that it imposed sanctions against Iran, then South Africa must stop relations with Cuba as well."

The Department of Foreign Affairs said South Africa's foreign relations throughout the world were based on economic interests, and South Africa stood to gain from the agreement with Iran.

"This in no way detracts from the fact that human rights considerations, democratic practices and the rule of law are paramount to our foreign policy orientation," said Foreign Affairs spokesman Peter Swanepoel.

"Diplomatic relations exist between South Africa and Iran and create the possibility of bringing our views to bear on the government of Iran."

Environmentalists are also comparing the response to the oil deal to the proposal by Iscor [South African Iron and Steel Corporation] to build a steel mill in Saldanha. Opponents of the mill mounted a media campaign, petitioned the supreme court and succeeded in pressuring the Department of Environment Affairs to appoint a board of investigation.

The resultant increase in shipping to Saldanha Bay could necessitate the dredging of the harbour; when this was proposed by Iscor it drew howls of protest from environmentalists.

Knill said the threat crude oil constituted to the environment could clearly be seen on Clifton Beach, where

crews were still battling to clean oil waste which washed up there last year.

"When people heard about the benefits of the oil deal, they did cartwheels and spoke about the benefits for the RDP [Reconstruction and Development Program], without pausing to consider the effects on the environment," Knill said.

He said Earthlife Africa would respond to the oil deal in the same way it dealt with the steel mill project. The organisation's representations to the board of investigation into the mill called for a structured plan for the entire Saldanha area, in consultation with environmental groups.

"Both Saldanha Steel and the CEF claimed to have done environmental impact assessments of their project. But these are often used as business tools, designed to complement the objectives of the company concerned," Knill said.

"What they do is break up the study into tiny bits, like separating the study on the impact on the harbour from the adjacent lagoon and land. Unless the study is integrated, all we will see is an incremental destruction of the area."

In response, the executive director of the CEF, Kobus van Zyl, said critics of the project should not ignore the fact that oil had been ferried into Saldanha Bay and stored there since 1976. The harbour had been dredged in the past to accommodate the tankers.

"In those days, the emphasis on the environment was not what it is today. All we did then was a study to determine what we should do to ensure that we did not have accidents and what preparations and equipment was needed if there was an accident," Van Zyl said.

The CEF has commissioned the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research to do an environmental impact assessment for the Iranian deal, but Van Zyl could not say when it would be completed, or if it was expected before the oil arrived in Saldanha.

"We are satisfied that we will be able to deal with any situation with our present capacity. We have taken all the precautions we can to avoid the threat of oil pollution."

Oil Spill Off KwaZulu/Natal Coast Raises Pollution Fears

MB3007180895 Johannesburg SAfm Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 30 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Fears have been raised of oil pollution along KwaZulu/Natal's south coast beaches following today's oil spill from an oil tanker off

Reunion, south of Durban. Carol Lane of our Durban news office has the details:

[Begin Lane recording] Oil pollution vessels and the Pentow Marine tug are still here on the scene of the oil spillage from the tanker, World Champion, off Reunion, south of Durban. The slick stretches for about a kilometer and a half, and despite a strong on-shore wind blowing, the oil still surrounds the vessel, which could indicate that the leak has not been stopped.

Details surrounding the spillage have been very difficult to obtain, as Durban Port Control has no further news and we have not been able to get hold of a Pentow Marine spokesman or the Department of Transport. An unconfirmed source said the oil may be leaking from the hull.

Fears have been expressed that the oil may wash up on Amanzimtoti beaches overnight, and authorities here are ready, as are the Natal Parks Board. Fishermen are also very concerned, as there are a number of fishing reefs right where the spillage has occurred. From Durban, this is Carol Lane reporting for Radio News. [end recording]

KwaZulu/Natal Premier Rejects 'Piecemeal' Elections

MB2807151395 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1437 GMT 28 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Durban July 28 SAPA — KwaZulu/Natal Premier Frank Mdlalose on Friday [28 July] called for the postponement of local government elections in the province.

In a speech prepared for delivery at a meeting with traditional leaders in Ulundi, Mdlalose said: "KwaZulu/Natal is opposed to piecemeal elections in the province as there is no point in holding elections for a small minority of the population...the entire election should therefore be postponed in KwaZulu/Natal".

An investigation into the feasibility of an election in KwaZulu/Natal by officials of the provincial housing ministry said earlier in the week a successful election in the province was impossible.

The election process in KwaZulu/Natal was being hampered by problems in proclaiming 16 of the province's 61 transitional local councils (TLCs), according to a report compiled after the investigation.

It said that elections could only be held in 45 TLCs which represented just 7.88 per cent of the more than three million registered voters in the province.

In his address, Mdlalose blamed the African National Congress for the election chaos in the province, saying:

"The only problem in KwaZulu/Natal is the insistence by the ANC that portions of tribal authorities be included in the area of jurisdiction of transitional local councils."

The IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party] is opposed to the inclusion of traditional tribal land into the TLCs and the Transitional Metropolitan Council (TMC).

Mdlalose said, however, the Inkatha Freedom Party was not opposed to the inclusion into these structures of "highly urbanised pieces of tribal land" provided the matter had been discussed and agreed upon by the relevant TLCs and tribal authorities.

He said the election could have gone ahead as planned if all TLCs and the TMC had kept to the original boundaries proclaimed in terms of section seven of the Transitional Local Government Act.

"Section eight of the act has had the effect of re-opening the initial boundary debate, and the problems are insurmountable within the laid down time frames," Mdlalose said.

He was adamant that both he and his party supported local government elections, but said it was not possible in KwaZulu/Natal.

"...we have problems when we in the cabinet tried to level everything on time, we had difficulties — obstruction from the ANC," said Mdlalose.

"The real problem in a nutshell is that ANC people want to force every part of our province to hold elections in a manner that does not recognise the presence of amakhosi (traditional leaders), in a manner that does not recognise that amakhosi are governing their areas, in a manner that does not recognise that there are millions who live happily in areas controlled by amakhosi."

KwaZulu/Natal Premier Apologizes for 'Soft' Treatment of ANC

MB2807191095 Johannesburg NEW NATION
in English 28 Jul 95 p 3

[Report by Jimmy Seepe and Paddy Harper]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KwaZulu-Natal Premier Dr Frank Mdlalose, was recently forced to apologise and explain to Home Affairs Minister Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi why he had been soft on the ANC — especially to ANC national chairperson and provincial MEC [member of the Executive Council], Jacob Zuma.

Three high-ranking Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) sources interviewed by NEW NATION independently said Mdlalose's apology to Buthelezi was made after

he came under intense pressure from the party for not pushing the organisation's agenda strongly enough.

The Premier then reportedly wrote a detailed letter to Buthelezi explaining his difficulties within the provincial government in speeding up certain controversial legislation.

Mdlalose's spokesperson, Zakhele Mkhize, told NEW NATION he was not aware of the letter. IFP secretary general, Ziba Jiyane, could not be reached as he was in Taiwan. NEW NATION sources indicated that Mdlalose was falling out of favour in the party together with other former Inkatha heavyweights.

Buthelezi, who is also IFP president, is said to have assembled a three man team — himself, Correctional Services Minister Sipho Mzimela and Inkatha central committee member Velaphi Ndlovu — to effectively run the party, according to one of our sources. "Divisions are growing so much within the party that most of the important decisions are now taken by the three", the source said.

Another source said the election of Mzimela as national chairperson would place pressure on Mdlalose to take a harder stance on the ANC.

"Premier Mdlalose, Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology Ben Ngubane and Deputy Minister of Safety and Security Joe Matthews are no longer consulted when important decisions have to be taken," said the source. "They are considered too theoretical and philosophical in their approach to important issues. All of them, and Mdlalose especially, have fallen out of favour."

Tensions between the party's provincial MPs and their counterparts in the national assembly have also become apparent. Inkatha hardliner and Buthelezi's righthand man, Sipho Mzimela, delivered a stinging rebuke to members of the party who he said had become too close to the organisation's enemies.

Another source observed that Buthelezi, Mzimela and Ndlovu were not only running the IFP but had also effectively extended their influence to the running of the provincial government.

"We are just sitting like ducks here and instructed to accept unpopular decision taken by three," said the source. "For instance, recent decisions to pull out of the Constitutional Assembly, opposition to the Truth and Reconciliation Committee and the IFP decision on the inter-governmental forum were never discussed by the party".

Another provincial representative said Inkatha members within provincial government had individually decided

to absent themselves when unpopular decisions were to be taken as a way of expressing their opposition. According to the source, the absence often frustrated Inkatha's efforts to obtain a majority within the legislature and left the party dependent on support from other parties.

The IFP has 41 of the legislature's 81 seats; the ANC 26 and the NP [National Party] nine. The Democratic Party together with the Pan Africanist Congress and Minority Front have one each. In order to pass a provincial constitution, Inkatha would need 54 votes, but this would only happen if they got support from other parties.

Buthelezi is said to be getting frustrated by certain Inkatha officials who are not confrontational and tough enough with the ANC.

"For Buthelezi, Mzimela and Ndlovu — the only way for Inkatha to achieve growth is through the politics of confrontation. Various MPs have been taken to task for supporting certain decisions of the ANC. Provincial representatives have been given strong warning for not pushing hard enough to make the province autonomous. The attitude is that we should not agree to any decisions taken by the ANC even if we think it might be the correct one".

There is an element of desperation and frustration within the party, especially after this week's conference. The conference did not present a unified front — it was more fragmented than ever before," [no beginning quotation marks as received] said one of the sources.

"There's currently no positive agenda for Inkatha at this stage," added another source.

Another provincial member, who is also on the Inkatha Central Committee, said most of the resolutions tabled at the organisation's conference last weekend were decided beforehand by the party's top brass.

Mdlalose's about-turn for an election did not come as a result of pressure from talks he held this week with various organisations which included the NP. The source said much of the pressure came from within the party.

Most provincial IFP MPs were said to be so strongly opposed to most of the resolutions taken at the congress that they have undertaken to abstain themselves when some of the controversial bills are tabled in the KwaZulu/Natal legislature.

In his speech to the congress, Buthelezi lashed out at Mdlalose for failing to be tough on the ANC. Someone who attended the congress said the attack was not directed at Mdlalose alone.

"Buthelezi's attack was directed at some of us. Most of provincial representatives here (in KwaZulu/Natal) agree with the approach adopted by Mdlalose and do not want to push unworkable concepts for the province."

And for the first time, central committee members confirmed to NEW NATION that the party's caucus last month discussed removing Mdlalose from his premiership. He was apparently to be moved to the national government to replace Buthelezi.

KwaZulu/Natal PAC Rejects Leader's Remarks to IFP

*MB2807053995 Johannesburg SAPA in English
2102 GMT 27 Jul 95*

[Report by Michel Schnehage]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Durban July 27 SAPA — The Pan Africanist Congress [PAC] in KwaZulu/Natal on Thursday [27 July] distanced itself from PAC National Secretary-General Maxwell Nemadzivhanani's address to the Inkatha Freedom Party [IFP] conference in Ulundi at the weekend.

At the conference Nemadzivhanani was wildly applauded when he maintained the PAC recognised the IFP's call for greater provincial powers.

Regional PAC Chairman Rodgers Mthethwa said Nemadzivhanani's statement implied that the PAC supported the IFP's call for federalism, which was not the case.

"We want to state that the PAC is not for a federal state and we are disassociating ourselves from that."

Mthethwa also denied claims the PAC and the IFP were moving toward greater co-operation.

IFP spokesman Dr Ziba Jiyane said at the weekend conference "healthy relations" existed between his party and the PAC and that the two had co-operated on "certain issues".

In response, Mthethwa said: "They are entitled to their wishes and assumptions."

In a statement from Johannesburg, Nemadzivhanani also denied media reports of "a looming PAC-IFP alliance," as well as a PAC move away from a unitary state to federalism. He claimed his presence at the IFP conference and his statements had been distorted.

He questioned why the PAC's presence at funerals of African National Congress members in the past had not elicited the same response.

"Did not the PAC leaders attend such events as the funerals of ANC leaders like Chris Hani, Oliver Tambo,

Joe Slovo, Harry Gwala. Did that signify a looming alliance?"

Nemadzivhanani defended his presence at the conference. Although his party's political views differed from those of the IFP, it did not necessarily mean the two parties were enemies.

"They must be tolerated, even if we don't share their ideas...it is healthy for us all to work together," he told SAPA.

Like any other political party, the IFP had the right to voice its stand on federalism.

He endorsed Jiyane's remarks that healthy relations existed between his party and the IFP.

"Even though we have never exposed federalism as our policy, as democrats we do recognise the democratic right of others to put across their demands, be they IFP, ANC or other parties."

KwaZulu/Natal Chiefs To Demand Autonomy at Meeting

*MB2807204095 Johannesburg SAPA in English
2021 GMT 28 Jul 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Durban July 28 SAPA — A meeting of Zulu chiefs in KwaZulu/Natal will be convened on August 20 to demand autonomy, the Zulu royal house announced on Friday [28 July].

This is one of several resolutions adopted at a meeting of the Zulu royal house in Ulundi on Friday.

A statement said the "imbizo" would be open to anyone in the "Kingdom of KwaZulu/Natal". A "solemn covenant" would be presented at the imbizo binding all members of the Zulu nation and all others living in "our ancestral territory to the just and noble cause of the restoration of our autonomous kingdom".

The covenant would declare the restoration of the kingdom "as part of a unified South Africa which of right ought to belong to us for our self-determination" and would be "the guiding force and commitment in our struggle for freedom".

Friday's meeting also called on the Zulu nation to unite and defend its right to self-determination. It was further resolved to support the KwaZulu/Natal Provincial Government "in its decision to oppose, frustrate and render ineffective" the Remuneration of Traditional Leaders Act, which accords to central government the responsibility of paying traditional leaders.

Constitutional and Development Minister Roelf Meyer was condemned for adopting amendments to the Local Government Transition Act "which prevents the Zulu

nation from establishing in its territory the rural local government model of its choice".

The central government's decision to go ahead with staggered local government elections was also condemned. KwaZulu/Natal residents would be urged to resist the staggering of elections.

The KwaZulu/Natal Government was called on "to do whatever is in its power to resist the crushing of the constitutional autonomy of the kingdom" and to adopt legislation to this end.

The provincial government should also adopt its own constitution as soon as possible to establish KwaZulu/Natal as a constitutional monarchy and "claim the maximum allowed autonomy under the (national) interim Constitution".

The Zulu royal house also said an early provincial election in KwaZulu/Natal should be called, if it appeared by September 1, that "an adequate and suitable" constitution could not be secured.

The statement concluded that the Zulu nation had "crossed the Rubicon" and was now engaged "in a peaceful and institutional fight to the finish to secure self-determination and autonomy for the kingdom of KwaZulu/Natal".

Mandela Apologizes for 1993 SADF Raid in Umtata

*MB2807165795 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1534 GMT 28 Jul 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pretoria July 28 SAPA — President Nelson Mandela on Friday apologised to the families of five people killed in a 1993 South African Defence Force [SADF] raid on an Umtata house.

"In my capacity as president and also on behalf of the nation as a whole, I hereby tender a public apology to the bereaved families..." the president said in a statement released through his office.

SADF troops early on October 8, 1993, shot and killed five people during the raid on a house in Umtata. The dead were named as twins Samora and Sadat Mpandulo, Mzwandile Mfeya, Yando Mthembu and Sandiso Yose.

"I believe the government and indeed the South African nation as a whole need to acknowledge openly and publicly the wrong that was committed to the families..." Mandela said.

He said he hoped the apology would help heal past wounds.

Buthelezi Discusses 'Vilification' of Image

*MB2907190695 Johannesburg SATURDAY STAR
in English 29 Jul 95 p 4*

[Report on interview with Mangosuthu Buthelezi, home affairs minister and Inkatha Freedom Party leader, by correspondent Maureen Isaacson in Pretoria on 23 July]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It feels like summer out in this Muckleneuk, Pretoria, garden even though it is still July. The occasion is the celebration of Egyptian National Day and the lawn is crawling with ambassadors and wannabes. Ambassador Mushira Khattab, the hostess, is chatting to a Mangosuthu Buthelezi-lookalike, who on closer inspection turns out to be the Home Affairs Minister himself. You have to wait in a kind of queue to shake the royal palm, but when it's your chance he is as warm as the day.

Decidedly amenable, the minister seems to be on a high. So many well-wishers! So many friends and acquaintances! So much goodwill that, later, up on the 10th floor of his Civitas office, it comes almost as a shock to hear him talking about the "killing talk", the "vicious personal attacks" on himself. These he believes to be at the root of the endemic political violence that has not let up since 1985.

Framed photographs of himself with Ronald Reagan, Margaret Thatcher and John Major watch over the telling of his sorry tale about the "maligning" and "vilification" to which he has been subjected. This has been intense enough to trash the Newsmaker and Man of the Year image of the man the press celebrated 10 years ago.

The downslide, he says, began in London in 1979 with Inkatha's visit to Oliver Tambo. Because armed struggle and sanctions were issues of contention, according to Buthelezi, by June 1985, Alfred Nzo, then ANC secretary-general, "launched an attack" on him in London.

"The sluice gates opened. The ANC responded by founding the UDF [United Democratic Front], welcoming affiliation of any black organisation except Inkatha. That was the turning point. I was demonised."

In my search for what drives the man behind the rhetoric, he goes so far as to divulge three things only: "My genes, my history, my heritage." His lineage reads like a fairy tale, which he relates with pride: mother was Princess Constance Magogo ka Dinuzulu, granddaughter of Cetshwayo, he says. Paternal grandpa was Chief Mnyamana Buthelezi. Aunty was Princess Harriet, married to ANC founder, Dr Pixie ka Isaka Seme. Uncle, grandpa of King Goodwill Zwelithini, was King Solomon, in whose palace he grew up. To his

home came Dr Albert Luthuli, ANC president-general at the time of its banning. Whew. He takes a breath.

Princess Magogo, 10th of the first 10 of Inkosi [Chief] Mathole's 20 wives, bore him (Mathole) three of his 18 children. A sister, Morgina still lives in Ulundi, another has passed on. And as early memories take him back to the hymns sung by his mother, once broadcast by the SABC [South African Broadcasting Corporation], back to her knee, where he is fond of saying he learnt his politics, he is a little boy again. "She was a fantastic person. Not highly literate, but she read the Bible and recited most of the psalms by heart."

Buthelezi says he is embarrassed to tell of a newspaper report that his voice "came out strongly" when singing at the funeral of his "soul mate", author Alan Paton, he does it anyway.

Can it be that modesty and the shyness to which he lays claim are what underlie this fierce, lionlike presence of Inkatha's founder? For the record — in his view, he is not irascible. He is "patient" and "forgiving to a fault". At least, he says, that is what his party members say. "I am sincere, I do not play games." He insists that the idea that he waited until the last minute before taking part in last April's elections is "a distortion".

Straightforward is how Buthelezi sees himself. And from this Irene, his wife of 43 years, benefits. She is the mother of his seven children (ranging from 23 to 42) and one deceased.

If we are to believe what Minister Buthelezi says about himself, he is a nice guy; the problem seems to lie elsewhere. Once a good friend of President Mandela, his disappointment in him now runs deep.

"He said he would withhold funds from KwaZulu/Natal — how can the president of state put his name to a document and then refuse to honour it? I get angry when the president I love and revere goes out of the country and blames me for the violence."

"Initially Mr Mandela expressed deep anguish over the killings, suggested we go together to Pietermaritzburg, then later cancelled due to opposition within the ANC."

Besides which, he says, the incinerations and necklacing that continue to besiege Natal began, he says, not in Natal, but in the Vaal Triangle. "I am very worried about the violence in Natal — more than 20,000 black people have been killed, 11,000 of these were members of my party and 400 of our leaders whose deaths have never been resolved have been targeted and serial-killed."

We sit there for a moment, conjuring silently the rivers of blood that have yet to be stayed in his province.

"If there was a solution," he says, "one would have implemented it. In 1976 I warned of the violence that was coming and they accused me of threatening it."

Right now Buthelezi wants to get one thing straight. He has been wronged. Stand corrected if you believed him to be responsible for the silence between himself and Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi; it is, he insists, the other way around.

His relationship with the other GNU [government of national unity] ministers he describes as excellent. And by the way, the forthcoming truth commission has been opposed by his party because it smacks of the Spanish Inquisition, where people told their inquisitors what they wished to hear.

Closer to home, the pressing problem of illegal immigrants is being addressed in counsel with representatives of the Home Affairs departments of Zimbabwe and Namibia. The man who, a BA in history behind him, began his career in 1951 as a clerk in Durban's Bantu Administration office has a great deal to keep him awake at night.

To the enemies who would have him "wiped off the face of politics" by the year 1999, be warned by the example of his near assassination at the funeral in London of PAC [Pan-Africanist Congress] founder Robert Sobukwe in 1978. "I am not easily frightened," he says. Did he run when his aide fired into the air the shot that saved him?

No, he walked away slowly, "with dignity". safe in his Christian belief. "I know there is a life hereafter. Death is one thing we have to have a tryst with."

But Mangosuthu Buthelezi is very much alive; he is stolid, commanding, determined. And he would have us know it is not his fault that elections in KwaZulu/Natal might be brought forward.

"This month Mr Zuma led a bitter attack against me, saying it is time for the ANC to deal with the IFP for once and for all. During last weekend I said if we don't get into any agreements, let's go into early elections." He blames the press for saying he was the one who issued the challenge.

In a full-throttle attempt to clear his name and accusations of racism levelled against his party, he condemns first the racists who perceive white people with whom he is associated as his "advisers". Then he admits to having "chided" people in his own council for being racist. "We are still dealing with these problems. It would be wrong to suppose that since last year we have all become black and white angels."

But in this, Minister Buthelezi has had a head start. Didn't he fly all the way to Cape Town at the invitation of Colin Eglin to propose the toast to Helen Suzman on her 21st year as an MP? "Maybe Buthelezi has his faults but he is not a racist," he says.

Before we leave, he hands me a copy of the speech he read last weekend at the IFP's 20th anniversary conference. I feel cheated that many of today's confessions have been already made public.

Then I remember that when I asked him if he had, at 67, any unfulfilled dreams, he said: "I wish my life was that of a musician and not a politician." He plays no instrument, but he digs jazz, classics. Elvis Presley...

Achievements of Northwest Public Works MEC Noted

MB2807140895 Johannesburg SOWETAN in English
28 Jul 95 p 19

[Report by Pamela Dube]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Zacharia Tolo is a name synonymous with the provision of essential services to the needy communities of the Northwest.

People associate him with clinics, schools and the most fundamental need in rural settlements — water.

Zakes, as he is popularly known, is MEC [member of the Executive Council] for public works in the Northwest. His job is to provide and maintain state infrastructure. He is also the chairman of the provincial water liaison committee.

He heads the Moretele Presidential Water Project, which was launched in March by President Nelson Mandela. The three year project, expected to cost R56 million [rands], will provide water to more than 150,000 villagers in 17 communities.

Tolo's department has also built and renovated state buildings. These included school buildings, clinics and government offices destroyed during the uprising in the former bantustan of Bophuthatswana a few weeks before the April 1994 elections.

Since May 1994, the department has built 524 new classrooms to the tune of R59.2 million. The construction of intervillage roads are also in the pipeline.

To date, the department has constructed 10 gravel roads measuring 13km, 18 tarred roads totalling 413.8km and built 16 bridges to the tune of R261 million.

Tolo is modest about his achievements, saying: "The difference with other departments is that my job is more visible."

Tolo's popularity in the province first came to the fore during the controversy surrounding premier Mr Popo Molefe and former MEC for agriculture Mr Rocky Malebane-Metsing.

"During the by-election for ANC chairman in the province, some people approached me to stand. I refused because I feel more comfortable as a middleman," he says. Tolo's political activity dates back to the 1970s, when he became active in student politics. He was expelled during his final year at Turfloop University in 1974 for his political activities.

This led to Tolo skipping the border for Botswana and later going for military training in the then Soviet Union. Life in exile was no bed of roses, but coming home in 1992 to lead and reshape the future government was no easy task either. It was difficult establishing and shaping Northwest's department of works, the soft-spoken Tolo said.

But, he took the challenge head-on: "The first challenge was to set a vision for the department." Another major task was to develop and maintain the confidence of staffers inherited from the old system. "The majority of them were not sure what future they had in the new system. One had to give them confidence that they are part of our people and had no reason to be unsettled."

After gaining the "undivided support" of his staff, Tolo decided that the new department should take a policy shift. Firstly, it had to centralise and rationalise resources. Inter-departmental committees were set up for different units to tackle the construction and renovation of clinics, schools, government offices and roads.

Secondly, the department had to change from being only a state provider. "We had to position ourselves more as community providers, and to provide services."

In the past the department used more casual labourers than permanent employees, and there was also a tendency to contract private companies for departmental projects. "We are now more labour intensive and are also developing people's technical skills." Hopefully, Tolo says, the new approach will reduce the region's unemployment of 60 percent.

Another major snag the department faced was a lack of qualified personnel. This has led to the department being forced to engage consultants. For the long term, Tolo said he has approached technical institutions to establish scholarships for young people interested in engineering.

Providing essential services for deprived communities remains at the top of his agenda. Leaders have a responsibility to provide for their people, he says.

Western Cape Called 'Most Competitive Province'

MB2807174295 Johannesburg MAIL & GUARDIAN (BUSINESS MAIL supplement) in English
28 Jul-3 Aug 95 p B4

[Report by Karen Harverson]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Western Cape has come out tops as South Africa's most competitive province in a report issued this week on the competitiveness of the nine provinces by the Foundation for Research and Development (FRD).

Gauteng ranked second, followed by KwaZulu/Natal, Free State, Eastern Transvaal, Northwest, Eastern Cape, Northern Province and Northern Cape.

The provinces were rated in four categories: physical resources, human resources, economic strengths, and scientific and technological resources. The report emphasises that each province has its own comparative strengths which need to be exploited for economic success.

While Gauteng rated highest in economic strength and scientific and technological resources, it is handicapped by the small area it occupies and its subsequent lack of physical resources.

Not so the Western Cape which has 12 percent of South Africa's arable land. Its potential for tourism is vast and it has the country's highest human development index — a measure of life expectancy, level of education and income.

"It has the most assets for future development which include a manufacturing base with a significant high-technology component, a large seaport complemented by minor harbours, two major airports, a high tourism potential, productive farmlands, a variety of exploitable mineral resources, a literate workforce and an effective education system," says FRD policy analyst William Blankley.

The Northern Cape, which scored lowest on the rating, has less than two percent of South Africa's population and showed a high dependence on mining/quarrying and agricultural production. Its economy shows a declining growth rate.

"It has the potential to expand its transport industry as it already serves as a base for fleets of transport trucks. De Aar is an important central rail junction, but the future of rail development will depend on national transport policies," says Blankley. The province also has South Africa's lowest levels of crime and violence.

But, says Blankley, the best way to examine these rankings is to study the provinces in terms of their

stages of general development. The Western Cape and Gauteng could be classified as developed provinces, while the Free State and KwaZulu/Natal could be called semi-developed. The remaining provinces fall into the category of developing provinces," he says.

He proposes that the developed provinces could be attractive for growth in high-technology manufacturing. The semi-developed provinces — KwaZulu/Natal and Free State — might well encourage investment in secondary industries and niche services related to their agriculture and mining industries.

The developing provinces offer the widest range of investment opportunities which may be high risk, but offer better returns. "For example, the provision of services such as electricity and water to areas previously denied these basic necessities could lead to the development of flourishing home industries and small businesses."

The report is loosely based on Michael Porter's research on the competitive advantage of nations which suggests four stages of development: factor-driven, investment-driven, innovation-driven and wealth-driven.

"South Africa shows aspects of all four stages although the national economy is predominantly factor-driven,

relying heavily on its natural resource base," says Blankley.

Projects such as Sasol [South African Coal, Oil, and Gas Corporation], Koeberg and Mossgas [Mossel Bay Gas Project] are investment-driven-stage developments, where technologies and economies of scale are developed.

South Africa's innovation-driven industries, where locally created technologies are sought after by foreign countries, are largely the result of specialisation, particularly in defence research, by apartheid governments.

Some elements of the wealth-driven stage, where investment in financial assets takes over from investment in real assets, exist but not in the true sense. "The proliferation of shopping centres, new office blocks and townhouse developments has been the major product of recent investments rather than industrial sites, large manufacturing plants or state-of-the-art factories," says Blankley.

Angola**National Army Reportedly Attacks UN Convoy**

MB2807124695 Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo Negro in Portuguese 1200 GMT 28 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The United Nations and nongovernmental organizations are working to reduce the people's food and other needs in Cuanza Norte Province, but the Angolan Armed Forces [FAA] are undermining those efforts. On 25 July, FAA troops deployed along the N'dalatando-Lucala line attacked a UN Angola Verification Mission [Unavem]-3 convoy returning from the (Chiangombe) area — where there was a meeting with National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] officials — on its way to N'dalatando. The meeting focused on the humanitarian aid situation in UNITA-administered areas.

The FAA forces attacked in the Panga area, a few kilometers from a tree-cutting company. We do not know yet the human and material losses incurred as a result of this attack. [passage omitted]

In that attack, the FAA troops used 81mm mortars, RPG-7 rocket launchers, and PKM submachine guns, in addition to other infantry weapons. The question we want to ask now is: Why is Unavem radio so mum about this incident? When will we have freedom of the press? [passage omitted]

Further on FAA 'Powerful' Attacks

MB3107080495 Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo Negro in Portuguese 0600 GMT 31 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Felix Miranda, the Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel correspondent in Negage, reported yesterday afternoon that Angolan Armed Forces [FAA] troops have been launching powerful attacks on areas in the vicinity of National Union for the Total Independence of Angola-controlled Quiteixe District. On 27 July, the command of the FAA's 1st Motorized Infantry Regiment ordered its 3d Battalion to move from Uige and occupy the (Quitoque) farm.

Felix Miranda also reports that the Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola Northern Command has informed the UN Angola Verification Mission [Unavem]-3 commander for the Northern Region about the seriousness of the situation. It has to be said, though, that the Unavem-3 military forces have not taken any action so far. The fact is that fighting was taking place in the [name indistinct] area, 7 km from Quiteixe, yesterday afternoon [words indistinct] Felix Miranda also reports that [passage indistinct].

Meanwhile, the movement of FAA forces and military equipment has been detected in Cuanza Norte Province.

According to [words indistinct] a column with 25 cannons offloaded large quantities of war materiel [words indistinct].

National Police To Receive Training in Portugal

MB3007150595 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 0600 GMT 30 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Angolan police are to begin training in Portugal in September. Deputy Interior Minister Fernando da Piedade Nando is in the Portuguese capital to get the process going. In an exclusive interview with Radio Angola, Minister Nando said that decisions have already been made about the courses and the number of men to be trained.

[Begin Nando recording] The results have been good. We can already tell you that concrete measures have been taken: We have defined deadlines and the number of men who will take part. We have already reached an agreement with the Portuguese Public Security Police, PSP, and the National Republican Guard, GNR, on the courses the men will take. These courses are expected to begin in September, certainly before October. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Santos Leaves 30 Jul for Holidays in France

MB3107082695 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1900 GMT 30 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Angolan head of state Jose Eduardo dos Santos left Luanda on 30 July for Nice, in southern France, to complete the holiday he started on 16 July. A source in the Office of the President told the Angolan Press Agency, ANGOP, that President Santos is accompanied by Ana Paula dos Santos, his wife, and will remain in France for about one week. The Angolan head of state came to Luanda on 27 July to pay his last respects to late Defense Minister Pedro Maria Tonha Pedale. [passage omitted]

Malawi**MDP Vice President Arrested for 'Intimidation'**

EA2807192495 Blantyre Malawi Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 1600 GMT 28 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The vice president of the Malawi Democratic Party, MDP, Mr. Onande Banda, has been arrested. A press release issued today by the national police headquarters in Lilongwe said Mr. Onande Banda was arrested yesterday on charges of intimidation.

Program Views Arrest, Party 'Trouble'

*MB2807190995 London BBC World Service
in English 1705 GMT 28 Jul 95*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] One of Malawi's smaller parties, the Malawi Democratic Party [MDP], has got itself into some trouble. On Tuesday [25 July], they marched on the office of President Bakili Muluzi with extensive demands on salaries and political issues. The MDP president, Kamulepu Kalwa, was said to have threatened rebel action if President Muluzi didn't stand down. Well, now police have arrested the party's vice president, Onande Banda, and are still searching for Kamulepu Kalwa. On the line to Blantyre, Alice Martin asked the party's secretary general, Laison Malazi, what had been going on.

[Begin recording] [Malazi] Yesterday, around half past three the police came to our offices and arrested our vice president, Mr. Onande Banda. They told us that they were looking for the president, as well, Mr. Kamulepu Kalwa, and the publicity secretary, Mr. Chimwemwe Mutaero. Today, this morning, when we went there to find out why they are being arrested, we were told that the charges are threatening the state president, one; two, causing an alarm.

[Martin] Do you think that these arrests are related to the petitions that you took to the president's house on Tuesday?

[Malazi] Yes.

[Martin] Can you tell me what was in that petition?

[Malazi] In the petition there were a lot of things. But to mention a few, we were asking the president to reduce the size of the cabinet, because our economy cannot be

able to contain it; and the second one, we were asking the president to have a price control commission so that the government is able to monitor prices, to make necessary things affordable for the local Malawians.

[Martin] Is it true that your leader, Kamulepu Kalwa, said that he was ready to declare himself a rebel leader?

[Malazi] No, that is not true. Our party does not believe in military actions. We are a peaceful party, and that is why we are asking the president to reduce the size of cabinet and what I have told you earlier on from February. We have given the president time from February until July, and in July we asked him to call for a referendum. If we were of military type, I don't think we would have asked the president to call for a referendum.

[Martin] It has been reported in the press that Kamulepu Kalwa did say: I am ready to declare myself a rebel leader, which is surely a very provocative statement.

[Malazi] Well, it is. But what Kamulepu Kalwa did say was that if Muluzi failed to call for a referendum, then he must step down.

[Martin] Did Mr. Kalwa say he was ready to be a rebel leader or not, then?

[Malazi] He didn't.

[Martin] Why would President Bakili Muluzi be interested in targeting a small party like yourselves with no representation in parliament?

[Malazi] The thing is, right now our party is very popular, and whenever we are having rallies a lot of people are coming. That is a threat, because if we have to have elections now, we will have representation in parliament. [end recording]

Nigeria**UK Blamed for National Sociopolitical Problem**

*AB2807125095 Lagos Voice of Nigeria in English
1030 GMT 28 Jul 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Britain has been blamed for the current sociopolitical problem in Nigeria because of its failure to promote oneness and a sense of belonging among Nigerians during the long years of colonial rule. Nigeria's minister of state for the Federal Capital Territory Abuja, Dr. Mariam Ekejiene Clark, who made this indictment during her visit to the editor in chief of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA, lamented that despite this obvious failure, Britain and the United States (?have failed to appraise the current) desire of the Nigerian Government to ensure peace, stability, and unity in the country. She attributed attacks by foreign countries on Nigeria to the lack of understanding of the situation in the country.

Liberia's Taylor Arrives in Abuja for Talks

*AB2807083595 Paris AFP in English
0015 GMT 28 Jul 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Abuja, 28 Jul (AFP) — Liberian warlord Charles Taylor will not attend a summit of the Economic Community of West African States which opens Friday [28 July] in the Ghanaian capital Accra, a spokesman for the rebel leader told AFP late Thursday.

Taylor, leader of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL), has not received any official invitation to attend the summit, Victoria Reffel said.

Taylor arrived Thursday in the Nigerian capital Abuja and was to hold talks on the dragging Liberian peace process with Nigerian military ruler General Sani Abacha, Reffel said.

Nigerian officials confirmed Taylor's presence in Abuja but refused to comment on whether or not General Abacha would meet him. Liberia, where some 150,000 people have been killed in over five years of civil war, is certain to be on the agenda of the summit.

Nigeria provides the largest contingent of troops in the African peacekeeping force in Liberia, a western near-neighbor state.

Taylor met Abacha on June 2 on his first official visit to Nigeria since the Liberian war broke out in December 1989.

Taylor Kept Waiting on Abacha

*AB2807220095 Paris AFP in French
1924 GMT 28 Jul 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Abuja, 28 Jul (AFP) — A National Patriotic Front of Liberia [NPFL] delegation spokesperson disclosed in Abuja today that the NPFL rebel leader, Charles Taylor, has still not been received by his host, Nigerian Head of State General Sani Abacha, more than 24 hours after the former's arrival in Abuja.

The spokesperson, Mrs. Victoria Reffel, announced at 1530 GMT that the Nigerian authorities had told the delegation that Gen. Abacha was still busy, and would receive the NPFL leader as soon as he was somewhat free. No official explanation has been given for Gen. Abacha's delay in receiving Mr. Taylor. Mrs. Reffel added that Mr. Taylor is expected to hold discussions with Gen. Abacha on the Liberian peace process, and brief him on his recent tour of several West African states.

Following his meeting with Gen. Abacha on 2 June, Mr. Taylor described his visit as "fruitful," and stressed that his organization wished to put an end to the Liberian conflict. It was Charles Taylor's first official visit to Nigeria since the Liberian war began in December 1989.

An Economic Community of West African States mini-summit, which was attended by nine heads of state, ended on 20 May in Abuja, without reaching an agreement on two fundamental issues — the composition of the Council of State, which will govern the country, as well as its chairman.

Government Arrests Human Rights Activist in Lagos

*AB2807174295 Paris AFP in English
1705 GMT 28 Jul 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lagos, July 28 (AFP) — A prominent human rights activist was arrested here Friday [28 July] by security agents, his Civil Liberties Organisation (CLO) said, bringing to three the number of rights activists arrested in as many days.

CLO executive director Abdul Oroh was arrested in his office at about 11:00 a.m. (1000 GMT), the CLO said in a statement.

The arrest follows that Thursday of Beko Ransome-Kuti, chairman of the Campaign for Democracy, a coalition of human rights organisations, and the arrest Wednesday of the head of the Nigerian branch of the US-based Human Rights Africa, Tunji Abayomi.

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Abayomi had just finished addressing a news conference in which he charged that there was no proof that former head of state General Olusegun Obasanjo was involved in an abortive coup the government says occurred in March.

Abayomi is the lawyer of Obasanjo, who was convicted of involvement in the alleged coup along with 42 other defendants in a secret military trial.

There has been no official confirmation of the arrests.

The CLO condemned the arrests and called for the immediate release of the detainees and all other detained pro-democracy activists.

Police Break Into Rights Activist's Office

*AB3007202595 Paris AFP in English
1339 GMT 30 Jul 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lagos, 30 Jul (AFP) — Police broke into the office of a detained human rights leader, beat up a security guard and stole film, books and other documents, the leader's organization said Sunday [30 July].

The Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People, led by Ken Saro-Wiwa, said the break-in occurred Saturday in the town of Port Harcourt, capital of southern Rivers State. It said security police forced open the doors of Saro-Wiwa's office, and stole books, manuscripts and films. They beat up the security guard, leaving him in critical condition, it added.

Saro-Wiwa and his organization are fighting for the minority Ogoni people to receive a share of the oil wealth in Rivers state. The movement has in the past few years been fighting what it calls government discrimination against the Ogoni, who number about 550,000 in the state, and the destruction of the community's ecosystem by foreign oil companies operating there, including Shell.

Saro-Wiwa, a former president of the Association of Nigerian Authors, and four other activists are being tried by a special court in Port Harcourt for the murder last year of three prominent Ogoni. The opposition says the charges have been trumped up to discredit the movement. The trial which began last February is expected to resume Monday, the statement said.

Report Says Executions To Continue in Lagos State

*AB3107081495 Paris AFP in English
2102 GMT 30 Jul 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lagos, 30 Jul (AFP) — More executions will be held in Lagos state following the killings of 43 armed robbers this month, the Lagos

military administrator said at the weekend, the official News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reported.

Forty-three armed robbers, including some condemned to death more than 10 years ago, were tied to stakes on July 22 and shot by a firing squad.

The warrant for the executions was signed by the state's military administrator, Colonel Olagunsoye Oyinlola, who holds a post roughly equivalent to state governor.

Six other convicted armed robbers had been executed in Lagos before the 43 were shot, officials in the state ministry of justice said without giving details.

Oyinlola announced a tough anti-crime campaign following a surge in armed robbery cases in which at least a dozen security agents were killed in several parts of the state.

The executions of the 43 had caused an uproar since they came shortly after former president Olusegun Obasanjo and 10 others were sentenced to life in prison and his top aide and 13 others were sentenced to die in connection with a failed military coup in March.

Obasanjo, who was head of state from 1976 to 1979, and a total of 42 other soldiers and civilians were convicted in connection with the alleged coup.

Possible Reprieve for Convicted Coupists Viewed

*AB2807175395 Lagos Voice of Nigeria in English
1030 GMT 28 Jul 95*

[Commentary by Mohammed Okorijo]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As [word indistinct] of the fate of the condemned coup plotters reaches the apex of the Nigerian hierarchy, hopes are becoming brighter that some of them will get a reprieve. If and when this happens, it will not be because of threats from some foreign nations or local people and organizations, but due to appeals from well-meaning Nigerians, such as former leaders Yakubu Gowon and Shehu Shagari, as well as the clergy and politicians. It will also be because African leaders like Nelson Mandela, Jerry Rawlings, Idriss Deby, and a host of others made personal appeals for clemency for the convicted men.

It is necessary to make this clarification before Western nations run away with the assumption that their threats may have been responsible for whatever clemency the coup plotters may get. Nigeria has said it before, and still holds, that it will not buckle its knees before any threatening nation on this score. This is because Nigeria will not for any reason compromise its sovereignty. As much as possible, Nigeria will operate within the ambit of international laws and conventions. But it will resist,

with all the means at its disposal, any attempt to make it take dictation from those who behave as if the sun rises and sets in the West. Though Nigeria is prepared to listen to constructive suggestions and advice from wherever, and work with them if found to be in the interest of the nation as part of a global polity, it will discard representations from those who speak from both sides of the mouth, or those who are not yet totally defrosted of colonialist tendencies even in the tail end of the 20th century.

The battle Nigeria is fighting with bullying Western nations is a battle for all Africa. This is because, although the actions of some of these Western nations are targeted at Nigeria now, it could be another African nation another time. The whole aim is to undermine African unity, pitching the onslaught from the head, as it were. Success in destabilizing Nigeria will make other African nations easy prey in this quest to make the world one big colonial (?retreat) for the so-called superpowers. However, it is refreshing to learn that the United States seems to be relaxing its pressure on Nigeria, which it exerted first on reasons of human rights abuse. The American ambassador to Nigeria, Walter Carrington, is quoted as saying that his country does not have the intention of imposing fresh sanctions on Nigeria for now. His pledge is that, as long as he remains the ambassador of the United States in Nigeria, no fresh sanctions will be imposed. This is welcome but rather transient. If Washington has reasons not to impose sanctions on Nigeria with the situation on the ground now, let it be so for always. The reason being that the Abacha administration is taking steps to bring Nigeria back into the democratic fold, the crux of which will be unfolded on 1 October.

Indeed, if Western nations hope to find a good excuse to carry out their destabilizing plot against Nigeria in the case of the convicted coup plotters, they will be disappointed. This is because we are not savages in Nigeria, and do not spill blood anyhow. Much as rules are made to be obeyed — rules which we inherited from these same Western filibusters — we in Nigeria are customarily forgiving. This quality of forgiveness will be in full play in the government's decision on the fate of the coup plotters. The Western nations should do us a favor and give us a break from their threats. The world can do without threats and bullying that have not solved the problems of the Eurasian bloc.

Senegal

Army Issues Release on 23 Missing Soldiers

AB2807175895 London BBC World Service
in English 1505 GMT 28 Jul 95

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It is beginning to look as though the low-grade civil war in Senegal's southern province of Casamance is entering a new phase. Separatist rebels of the MFDC [Movement of Democratic Forces of Casamance] have ignored their leaders, broken a cease-fire, and gone on a trail of attacks and banditry since the beginning of the year. Mostly, it has been civilian targets that have been hit, but the Army has gone on an offensive in the region. There have been more clashes between the Army and the rebels this week. It seems the rebels are fighting back, and Army casualties have been rising dramatically. From Dakar, Joseph Winter reports:

[Begin Winter recording] Breaking with its habitual silence, the Senegalese Army has issued a press release, in which it admits to the disappearance of 23 soldiers, including one officer, during, I quote, numerous and violent clashes in recent days between the Army and armed groups in the forest of the Casamance border zone. [no reference to closing of quotation as heard] This figure of 23 missing soldiers is much higher than the figure of six fatalities, which had previously been confirmed following two rebel ambushes earlier on this week. For almost the first time since fighting in Casamance restarted in January, the Senegalese Army mentioned enemy casualties, saying that heavy losses were inflicted on the assailants. However, it is left at that: No proof or precise figure for rebel casualties were advanced. Although the press release does emphasize that the 23 soldiers are missing rather than dead, one cannot hold out much hope for them as the only alternative explanations are almost equally grim: Either they are already dead, or dying somewhere in the forest, or they have been taken prisoner by the MFDC fighters, not renowned for their clemency.

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Meanwhile, relatives of the four French tourists, whose disappearance in April sparked off a massive military operation by the Senegalese Army, have finally had their request to see the rebel leader, Father Diamacoune, granted. They met yesterday in Ziguinchor in the presence of the French ambassador, the consul of Guinea-Bissau, the mayor of Ziguinchor, the Senegalese military chief of staff, and one of the Catholic mediators of the Casamance conflict. Diamacoune did not repeat

his previous accusation that Senegal and France had organized the disappearance as an excuse to destroy the rebel forces, now saying he has no information as to their whereabouts. He did promise, however, to order his men — at least those rebels who still follow him — to help in the search for the two couples, whose deaths are now widely accepted. [end recording]

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